

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), please amend the claims as indicated in marked-up form below, where additions are underlined, deletions are struck through, and new claims are presented without markings.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A holding device for holding a portable object, the

holding device comprising:

a support platform;

a first arm coupled to the support platform;

a second arm coupled to the support platform;

a biasing member located between the first and second arms;

a locking mechanism capable of maintaining the first arm and the second arm in any one of a plurality of discrete positions with respect to each other; and

a release button adjacent to the support platform, the release button capable of releasing the locking mechanism,

wherein:

the biasing member is capable of urging at least a portion of the first arm and at least a portion of the second arm toward each other. other;

the first arm comprises a first arm axis;

the second arm comprises a second arm axis;

the first arm axis and the second arm axis are substantially perpendicular to the support platform;

the first arm is capable of rotating about the first arm axis; and

the second arm is capable of rotating about the second arm axis.

Claim 2. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 further comprising:

- a first grip coupled to the first arm; and
- a second grip coupled to the second arm.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 wherein:

- the biasing member comprises a spring.

Claim 5. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 wherein:

- the support platform comprises an upper surface and a lower surface substantially opposite the upper surface; and
- the release button is located at the upper surface of the support platform.

Claim 6. (Original) The holding device of claim 5 wherein:

- the release button protrudes from the support platform.

Claim 7. (Original) The holding device of claim 5 wherein:

- the lower surface of the support platform is coupled to a mounting mechanism.

Claim 8. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 wherein:

the locking mechanism comprises:

a ratchet; and

a pawl capable of engaging the ratchet.

Claim 9. (Original) The holding device of claim 8 wherein:

the ratchet is integral with one of the first and second arms.

Claim 10. (Original) The holding device of claim 8 wherein:

the ratchet comprises a plurality of teeth and a plurality of indentations;

the pawl is capable of engaging at least one of the plurality of indentations; and

the first arm and the second arm are held in a fixed position with respect to each other when the pawl is engaged with one of the plurality of indentations.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) ~~The holding device of claim 1 wherein: A holding device~~

for holding a portable object, the holding device comprising:

a support platform;

a first arm coupled to the support platform;

a second arm coupled to the support platform;

a biasing member located between the first and second arms;

a locking mechanism capable of maintaining the first arm and the second arm in any one of a plurality of discrete positions with respect to each other; and

a release button adjacent to the support platform, the release button capable of releasing the locking mechanism,

wherein:

the biasing member is capable of urging at least a portion of the first arm and at least a portion of the second arm toward each other;
the first arm further comprises a first plurality of teeth;
the second arm further comprises a second plurality of teeth; and
the first plurality of teeth interacts with the second plurality of teeth such that a movement of one of the first and second arms causes a movement in the other of the first and second arms.

Claim 12. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 further comprising:
a pad over the release button.

Claim 13. (Original) The holding device of claim 1 wherein:
the first grip and the second grip comprise:
a substantially rigid core; and
a flexible material located adjacent to the core.

Claim 14. (Original) The holding device of claim 13 wherein:
the core is formed from a rigid plastic material; and
the flexible material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A holding device for holding a portable object, the holding device comprising:

a support platform having an upper surface for supporting the portable object and a lower surface substantially opposite the upper surface, the upper surface having a release button thereon;

a first lever coupled to the support platform;

a second lever coupled to the support platform;

a first grip coupled to a first portion of the first lever;

a second grip coupled to a first portion of the second lever;

a first handle coupled to a second portion of the first lever;

a second handle coupled to a second portion of the second lever;

a spring coupled between second portions of the first and second levers; and

a locking mechanism capable of maintaining the first lever and the second lever in any one of a plurality of discrete positions with respect to each other,

wherein:

the spring is capable of urging the first grip and the second grip toward each other;

the release button is capable of being activated by the application of a force to the portable object when the portable object is supported by the upper surface and located between the first and second grips; and

the release button is capable of releasing the locking ~~mechanism~~ mechanism;

the first arm comprises a first axis of rotation located between the first and second portions of the first arm;

the second arm comprises a second axis of rotation located between the first and second portions of the second arm;

the first arm axis and the second arm axis are substantially perpendicular to the upper surface of the support platform;

the first arm is capable of rotating about the first arm axis; and

the second arm is capable of rotating about the second arm axis.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Original) The holding device of claim 15 wherein:

the release button protrudes from the support platform.

Claim 18. (Original) The holding device of claim 15 wherein:

the lower surface of the support platform is coupled to a mounting mechanism.

Claim 19. (Original) The holding device of claim 15 wherein:

the locking mechanism comprises:

a ratchet; and

a pawl capable of engaging the ratchet.

Claim 20. (Original) The holding device of claim 19 wherein:

the ratchet is integral with one of the first and second arms.

Claim 21. (Original) The holding device of claim 20 wherein:

the ratchet comprises a plurality of teeth and a plurality of indentations;
the pawl is capable of engaging at least one of the plurality of indentations; and
the first arm and the second arm are held in a fixed position with respect to each other
when the pawl is engaged with one of the plurality of indentations.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) ~~The holding device of claim 21 wherein:~~ A holding device for holding a portable object, the holding device comprising:

a support platform having an upper surface for supporting the portable object and a lower surface substantially opposite the upper surface, the upper surface having a release button thereon;

a first lever coupled to the support platform;

a second lever coupled to the support platform;

a first grip coupled to a first portion of the first lever;

a second grip coupled to a first portion of the second lever;

a first handle coupled to a second portion of the first lever;

a second handle coupled to a second portion of the second lever;

a spring coupled between second portions of the first and second levers; and

a locking mechanism capable of maintaining the first lever and the second lever in any one of a plurality of discrete positions with respect to each other,

wherein:

the spring is capable of urging the first grip and the second grip toward each other;

the release button is capable of being activated by the application of a force to the portable object when the portable object is supported by the upper surface and located between the first and second grips;

the release button is capable of releasing the locking mechanism;

the locking mechanism comprises:

a ratchet; and

a pawl capable of engaging the ratchet;

the ratchet is integral with one of the first and second arms;

the ratchet comprises a plurality of teeth and a plurality of indentations;

the pawl is capable of engaging at least one of the plurality of indentations;

the first arm and the second arm are held in a fixed position with respect to each other when the pawl is engaged with one of the plurality of indentations;

the first arm further comprises a first plurality of teeth at the second portion of the first arm;

the second arm further comprises a second plurality of teeth at the second portion of the second arm; and

the first plurality of teeth interacts with the second plurality of teeth such that a movement of one of the first and second arms causes a movement in the other of the first and second arms.

Claim 23. (Original) The holding device of claim 15 further comprising:
a pad over the release button.

Claim 24. (Original) The holding device of claim 23 wherein:

the first grip and the second grip comprise:

a substantially rigid core; and

a flexible material located adjacent to the core.

Claim 25. (Original) The holding device of claim 24 wherein:

the core is formed from a rigid plastic material; and

the flexible material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a holding device for a portable object, the method comprising:

providing a support platform having a first arm and a second arm coupled thereto;

providing a biasing member capable of urging at least a portion of the first arm and at least a portion of the second arm toward each other, the biasing member located between the first arm and the second arm;

providing a locking mechanism capable of maintaining the first arm and the second arm in any one of a plurality of discrete positions with respect to each other; ~~and~~

providing a release button adjacent to the support platform, the release button capable of releasing the locking ~~mechanism~~. mechanism:

providing the first arm to be rotatable about a first arm axis; and

providing the second arm to be rotatable about a second arm axis,

wherein:

the first arm axis and the second arm axis are substantially perpendicular to the support platform.

Claim 27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

providing a first grip coupled to the first arm; and
providing a second grip coupled to the second arm.

Claim 28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

providing the locking mechanism to comprise:
a ratchet; and
a pawl capable of engaging the ratchet.